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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/586,831	08/07/2008	Philippe Renaud	034299-000707	8921

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Nixon Peabody LLP
P.O. Box 60610
Palo Alto, CA 94306

EXAMINER	
GORDON, BRIAN R	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1773	
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
05/11/2011	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/586,831	RENAUD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Brian R. Gordon	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *1* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *7-19-06*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☒ Claim(s) *1-42* are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1-22 and 39-42, drawn to a dispensing device, classified in class 422, subclass 503.

II. Claims 23-38, drawn to a dispensing method, classified in class 436, subclass 180.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP § 806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus can be used to practice another materially different process. Furthermore, the method as claimed is not restricted to being performed by the claimed apparatus.

3. Restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper because all these inventions listed in this action are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious search and/or examination burden if restriction were not required because at least the following reason(s) apply:

The claimed inventions have different classifications in the art. Therefore, a different search would be required for each of the inventions.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a invention to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention**.

The election of an invention may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable upon the elected invention.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species: The claims are replete with the terms “or” and “and/or” which provides for multiple, different interpretations and inventions. Applicant should select a single arrangement (species letter from each group) for examination.

I. Claim 6: Channel branches arrangement

Species A; in which (what does “which” refer to?)

Species B; on which

Species C; between which

Species D; at the interface of which

II. Claim 9

Species A; opening

Species B; orifice

III. Claim 9

Species A; platform

Species B; plate

IV. Claim 10

Species A; platform

Species B; plate

V. Claim 11

Species A; opening

Species B; orifice

VI. Claim 11

Species A; digged (does applicant mean "dug”?)

Species B; pierced

VII. Claim 13 Means for

Species A; measuring optical properties

Species B; measuring the impedance

Species C; measuring electric parameters

VIII. Claim 17

Species A; electrovalve

Species B; physical-mechanical actuator

IX. Claim 17

Species A; pressure wave

Species B; flow

X. Claim 19 control means

Species A; amplitude

Species B; triggering instant

Species C; form

Species D; duration of the control signal

XI. Claim 20

Species A; means for supply

Species B; continuous circulation

Species C; at least one tank

XII. Claim 22; means for

Species A; scanning

Species B; relatively shifting

XIII. Claim 27 means of reaction

Applicant should elect a single item (substance) from the list of claim 27 for examination.

XIV. Claim 28; electrical command

Species A; amplitude

Species B; triggering instant

Species C; form

Species D; pulse duration

XV. Claim 29

Species A; concentration

Species B; separation

Species C; extraction

Species D; collection

XVI. claim 30 fluid

Species A; solution

Species B; suspension

Species C; medium

Species D; liquid

XVII. claim 30 fluid content

Species A; biological cells

Species B; components

Species C; cellular products

XVIII. Claim 31; fluid

Species A; solution

Species B; suspension

Species C; medium

XIX. Claim 33; Content

Species A; particles

Species B; cells

Species C; cellular components

Species D; cellular products

XX. Claim 34; Measuring step

Species A; one electric parameter

Species B; impedance

Species C; differential variation of impedance

Species D; optical measuring

XXI. Claim 35; droplet size

Species A; volume; femtolitre to microlitre

Species B; diameter; miromettric diameter

XXII. Claim 36

Species A; substrate

Species B; support

XXIII. Claim 38

Applicant should elect a single process from the list for the application of the method.

XXIV. Claim 40

Species A; particles

Species B; cells

XXV. Claim 41; electrodes

Species A; measuring optical properties

Species B; impedance

Species C; electrical parameters

Species D; differential variation of impedence

XXVI. Claim 42

Species A; electrovlave

Species B; physical-mechanical actuator

XXVII. Claim 42

Species A; pressure wave

Species B; flow

5. The species are independent or distinct because the various species are directed to different characteristics of the generic groups. In addition, these species are not obvious variants of each other based on the current record.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species, or a single grouping of patentably indistinct species, for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

There is a search and/or examination burden for the patentably distinct species as set forth above because at least the following reason(s) apply:

The different species are of different processes, structure, characteristics, etc. that would require different searches.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or a grouping of patentably indistinct species to be examined even though the requirement may be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) **and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected species or grouping of patentably indistinct species**, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

The election may be made with or without traverse. To preserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the election of species requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse. Traversal must be presented at the time of election in order to be considered timely. Failure to timely traverse the requirement will result in the loss of right to petition under 37 CFR 1.144. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which of these claims are readable on the elected species or grouping of patentably indistinct species.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species, or groupings of patentably indistinct species from which election is required, are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing them to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the species unpatentable over the prior art, the

evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other species.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which depend from or otherwise require all the limitations of an allowable generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

6. A telephone call was made to Robert E. Krebe on May 3, 2011 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian R. Gordon whose telephone number is 571-272-1258. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 1st Fri. Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill Warden can be reached on 571-272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Brian R Gordon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1773

/Brian R Gordon/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1773